

What the Dispensary Cleared Last Year.

OVER HALF A MILLION.

The report of the state board of control for the business of the year, shows a very favorable condition of affairs. In the preliminary report the board says:

"We find that the county boards of control are costing more than \$100,000 per annum, and do not meet the requirements of the dispensaries, and recommend that they be abolished and some more suitable and economical plan be devised for local supervision and control."

The financial statement follows:

Cash in state treasury December 31, 1897,	\$61,901.26
Merchandise in hands of county and hotel dispensers,	211,462.13
Supplies (inventory),	11,499.54
Machinery and office fixtures (inventory),	2,500.00
Teams and wagons (inventory),	1,000.00
Merchandise (inventory),	88,158.30
Personal accounts due state,	2,811.50

Total assets, \$379,332.73

LIABILITIES.

School fund,	\$319,380.40
Personal accounts due by state,	59,952.33

Total liabilities, \$379,332.73

Statement of profit and loss account for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1897.

PROFITS.

Merchandise,	\$308,177.66
Overland seizures,	4,634.52
Profits from beer and hotel dispensaries,	26,108.20
Rebates and discounts on whiskey purchases,	42,510.36
Permit fees,	63.00
Sale of cart,	6.00
Unearned profits on goods in hands of dispensers September 30th—less reduction in prices December 1st, 1897, since accrued,	42,871.75

\$424,371.49

Difference between net accrued profits and net profits for the first three quarters, placed to the credit of the school fund from time to time, 12,619.49

Total, \$436,990.98

The net profits for twenty-one months as shown to have been:

Net profits of county, beer and hotel dispensaries for 9 months in 1896, \$119,703.16

Profits of State dispensary for nine months in 1896

passed to the credit of school fund by state board, 178,637.99

Net profits of county, beer and hotel dispensaries for the year 1897, 107,890.98

Profits of State dispensary for the year 1897 passed to the credit of school fund by state board, 146,443.09

Total amount, \$552,675.22

LOSSES.

Breakage and leakage,	\$ 1,888.86
Constabulary,	40,900.43
Freight and express,	64,839.60
Labor,	14,919.97
Expenses,	20,663.73
Licenses,	143.75
Supplies,	119,306.02
Insurance,	2,958.91

Tear and wear of teams and wagons, machinery and office fixtures, etc., 671.66

Worthless accounts placed to profit and loss, 1,769.65

Ex dispensers' shortages placed to profit and loss, 16,006.33

Losses by fire at Darlington, Manning and Kershaw dispensaries, 6,478.98

\$290,547.89

Total amount placed to credit of school fund during year, 146,443.09

Total, \$436,990.98

Several hundred dollars of worthless accounts, due the state for empty barrels, kegs, etc., most of which were found on the books when this board assumed charge of the state dispensary; and also several hundred dollars due the state by an insolvent insurance company for property lost by fire, which occurred while property was insured in said company, have been placed to profit and loss account.

We have also placed to profit and loss account several thousand dollars of ex-dispensers' shortages, about half of which occurred prior to the organization of this board. These shortages are in the hands of the attorney general, and some are now in process of settlement.

Louisville, Ky., January 28.—A special to the Post from Frankfort says:

The resolution requesting the immediate resignation of United States Senator William Lindsay came up in the Kentucky Senate this morning, having passed yesterday by the House. The resolution was adopted by the Senate by a vote of 25 to 10, Senator Johnson, of Clinton, being the only Democrat voting against the resolution, and only nine Republicans voting against it.

Lynching in Florence.

Two Hundred Men Gathered for the Work.

The Rope Thrown Over the Limb of a Tree—The Body Riddled With Bullets.

Special to The State.

Marion, Jan. 28.—According to reliable information received here to-day John A. Belia, a negro, the murderer of Mr. E. J. Cox of Savage, a small postoffice in the lower section of Florence county, was lynched by a mob of 200 men last night at 8 o'clock about one mile from Savage, near the public road leading to Godfrey's ferry.

As soon as the posse arrived at Savage yesterday afternoon messengers were sent out in every direction notifying the citizens of capture of the negro. The news spread like wildfire in every direction and before sunset men were gathered from the counties of Marion, Florence and Darlington.

Quite a controversy arose as to where the lynching should take place, the Florence county men claiming that as the home of the murdered man, Cox, was in their county he should be hung there, while the Marion men claimed that as the murder was committed in Marion county on Col. C. C. Laws' plantation he should be brought across the river at Godfrey's ferry, which is only two miles distant from Savage.

The prisoner in the meantime was in charge of two Florence county deputies whose names cannot now be learned. It was finally decided to bring the negro over to this county and Constable Davis of Marion went down to the ferry to get charge of the prisoner and bring him on to Marion's jail. At 7:30 the procession was organized and started for the river. Not a word was spoken until they had proceeded about one mile when the command, "Halt," was given.

Immediately a dozen or more strong arms grabbed the two deputies and bled them away. The negro then commenced to beg and plead for his life, but his entreaties were of no avail. A rope was thrown around his neck, his hands were tied and he was led screaming for his life, under a large oak by the roadside. A man was already up the tree and the loose end of the rope was thrown to him and quickly passed over the limb back to the ground, and in less time than it takes to tell it, the wretch was dangling 10 feet in the air. His sufferings were of short duration, for as soon as his feet left the ground the crowd commenced shooting, and it is said the contents of 75 guns were emptied into his body. The mob immediately dispersed, leaving the body hanging there by shreds, feeling satisfied that the murder of E. J. Cox had been avenged.

A School Book Fund.

The bill of Mr. Johnson, of Spartanburg, to provide for a special fund for the purchase of school books by the several counties has been passed by the House of Representatives without amendment.

The following is the bill:

Section 1. That an Act entitled "An Act to provide the pupils attending the free public schools with school text books at actual cost," approved February 17, A. D. 1897, be, and the same is hereby, amended in Section 1, line 4, by striking out the word "empowered," and by substituting in lieu thereof the word "required," so that said section, when amended, shall read as follows, viz: "Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, That the county boards of education of the several counties of this State be, and they are hereby, authorized and required to set aside from the public schools funds of their respective counties an amount not exceeding five hundred dollars, for the purpose of providing the pupils attending the free public schools of their counties with school text books at actual cost, or exchange prices."

Section 2. Said Act is hereby further amended, in section 3, by adding to the end of said section the following, viz: "And the place where said school text books are kept and sold shall be deemed depositories, under the control of the State, as provided in the 7th article or provision in the contract made in 1893 with the publishers of school text books, so that said section, when so amended, shall read as follows, viz: "Section 3. That the amount so set aside by the county board of education shall be and remain a permanent fund in the hands of the county superintendent of education, to be used in purchasing and keeping on hand school text books for sale to pupils attending the free public schools of his county, for cash, at actual cost or exchange prices, and to be used for no other purpose and in no other manner; and the places where said school text books are kept and sold be deemed depositories, under the control of the State, as provided in the 7th article, or provision, in the contract made in 1893 with the publishers of school text books."

Louisville, Ky., January 28.—A special dispatch to the Times from Frankfort says. When, next month, the battle ship Kentucky glides from the ways at Newport News her decks will not be bathed in champagne or good whiskey. The fair sponsor, Miss Christine Bradley, will uncork a beautifully embellished silver vessel full of pure water.

The General Assembly.

A Fat Printing Job The Centre of all Interest.

There Seems to be Some Lingerer Opposition to the Bill to Open the Public Printing to Public Competition.

Columbia, January 28.—The House to-day resumed its discussion of Mr. Reynolds's competitive printing bill, and finally on a ye and nay vote declined to agree to a minor Senate amendment. Then the Senate, without a dissenting voice, receded from its amendment, and left the bill ready for ratification, unless the Senate reconsider its action and insists upon its amendment. The fact is that the elections and the public printing question are about the only things that are exciting any special interest or feeling. The spirited debate on the printing bill was continued this morning.

The only other general measure considered in the House during the morning session was directed against foreign building and loan associations, and a bill was finally passed requiring all building and loan contracts to comply with the laws of this State whether the payments are made payable outside of the State or not. The discussion on this bill was quite spirited, the cause of the home building and loan associations being led by Messrs Patton and Thomas, of Charleston.

In the Senate Mr. Henderson's bill to economize in the enforcement of the criminal law, and Mr. Moses's bill to have three commissioners of registration were passed. There was some debate on the wide tire bill, but no action taken. By withdrawing the amendment to the House printing bill the Senate passed the measure, the House having refused to agree to the amendment. Many special orders were made, and the working spirit still continues.

The following bills have been ratified:

To provide for the creation and disbursement of a public school teachers' retirement fund in the City of Charleston.

To extend the time for the payment of the commutation tax till March 1, 1898.

To repeal Section 177 of the General Statutes as to special returns by merchants for taxation.

To amend an Act to apportion the road fund derived from the special county levy by adding an additional section.

To extend the time for the payment of taxes for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1897.

To require the county supervisors or county boards of commissioners to furnish duplicate copies of all approved claims to their Representative when required.

To approve the action of the town council of Greenwood in the contract for the erection of a Court House and jail for that county, and to declare the bonds issued a valid debt of the town of Greenwood.

To amend the Revised Statutes relating to poison.

To amend Revised Statutes relating to the arrest of a felon.

The Senate having finished its Calendar it adjourned until Monday next.

Governor Approves Tax Extension Bill.

The governor to-day approved the act extending the time of the payment of taxes to February 20th.

This bill, during its passage through the legislature, created considerable interest. It was a question as to whether the time should be extended, unless some calamity of wind or flood or plague or such should make it necessary. Those in favor of the bill thought that the distress caused by fire-cotton and the consequent inability to get money was calamity enough to warrant the legislature in extending the time of payment of taxes without penalty.

The bill passed both houses, was ratified and became an act on Saturday. It was given to the governor immediately, and to-day was approved by him and became a law. Treasurers may now hold the executions made out for delinquents since January 15, and sheriffs may return what has been turned over to them for collection, and both may wait until after the 20th of February to issue and collect.

Many inquiries from treasurers to the comptroller general have been received asking what should be done with regard to issuing executions. They now know. A circular from the comptroller will inform them of the action of the legislature, and the machinery of the tax department will start off again.—Columbia Record Jan. 31.

Would Like Relief.

The death of the clerk of court of Charleston, which was announced yesterday, will give the governor another opportunity of making appointment of a county officer. This fact recalled to one who watches such things that Governor Ellerbe has had more occasion of this kind thrust on him than any other governor in recent years. As some of his appointments have caused some political dissatisfaction it is thought that the governor does not welcome the duty of filling offices under such circumstances or on account of resignation.—Columbia Register, Jan. 28.

What the General Assembly Has Done.

Retrospective and Prospective Summary of the Work.

The State Jan. 31st.

The general assembly has now been in session three weeks, and it yet has a great deal to do. At this stage it does not seem likely that the prediction that the session would be a short one will come true. No steps looking to a short session were taken during the past week. Mr. Gasque tried to get the house to pass his concurrent resolution to adjourn sine die on the 13th, inst., but the body declined to agree to the proposition, the argument being that it was unwise to fix a final day far ahead. When the resolution was killed, Mr. Caughman of Saluda introduced another providing for the final adjournment on the 15th.

The resolution is on the calendar, and is a special order for to-day. Mr. Magill has the only other resolution looking to a final adjournment. It is also a special order for this morning. It is intended to prevent the introduction of bills after to-day except through certain committees. There is talk of calling both these resolutions up when the house meets this morning.

In this connection it will be interesting to glance over the work, past and prospective. When the house met it had 63 bills brought over from last session on its calendar. All of these, save four, among them being the prohibition bill, the Burns' privilege tax bill and the Gage county government bill, have in one way or another been disposed of. Since the session began about 235 bills, including claims reported upon, have been presented. When the house adjourned on Saturday there was exactly 120 bills, including the four brought over from last session, four claims and twelve senate bills on the calendar. When business begins to-day there will be possibly eight more house bills on the calendar, and as many more senate bills. Quite a large number of bills are still in committee, though the committees have been doing excellent work this session.

The features of the past weeks' session were the elections for comptroller general, members of the State board of control and public printer, and the fight over the public printing bill. These matters largely occupied the attention of the members. There was no end of "log rolling" in the matter of the elections. The defeat of Governor Ellerbe's appointee, Mr. Epton, for comptroller general, and the election of Mr. Parks as public printer are still fresh in the minds of all and it is needless to say more here about them. The same thing is true of the public printing bill fight. The defeat of Mr. Epton has had its effect on the political situation, no doubt. At least it is so considered.

So far as dispensary or liquor legislation is concerned, thus far the special committee on the dispensary has not submitted its report or the bills referred to it. It is expected to present a subordinate bill. Whether the request of the State board of control that county boards be done away with is to be heeded or not is not known yet. The only other new measure affecting the liquor situation is the bill of Mr. Simkins of Edgefield looking to the reference of the whole matter to the people in an election to be held next November. The proposition was frequently suggested prior to the session.

Mr. Childs' prohibition bill has not yet been discussed or voted upon. The author has indicated that it will be called up to-morrow.

Mr. Childs also has a bill requiring that pupils in the public schools be given instruction as to the effect of intoxicating liquors on the human system. It is thought that this bill will be passed.

The special committee appointed to consider the concealed weapon bills has reported all of them unfavorably, and presented a substitute bill for the entire lot, which it is thought will meet the situation better than anything else. The text of this bill has been given.

When the bill to repeal the anti-free pass act came up in the house during the week the house on two votes showed that so far as it was concerned it wanted the act "dropped," as an ox felled by the back of an axe before the altar of Jove." That's the way Sienkiewicz would express it. The house decided once before to repeal this act, but the senate was not of the same mind.

The committee's substitute for Mr. Gage's county government bill was called up during the past week, and was partially debated, but no action has yet been taken. This important measure is to come up again this week, and will doubtless be finally disposed of.

The house has rejected the proposition looking to a constitutional amendment to have November sessions of the general assembly.

One of the most interesting debates of the past week was that upon the bill to repeal the agricultural lien law. Mr. Rogers fought hard for his bill, and it was shown that the house was pretty evenly divided, but the bill was killed.

The bill relating to landlords' liens

for supplies furnished tenants was partially discussed, but no decisive action has been taken.

Mr. Magill has two bills looking to the method of filling offices. One which has gotten a favorable report, is to provide for the election of all officers, appointive as well as elective, by the people. The other is to require appointments to be made upon the recommendations of legislative delegations.

The friends of the cause of good roads are congratulating the house upon the passage of Mr. Hydrick's bill permitting five-year term convicts to be sentenced to labor on the county chaingangs.

Mr. Patton's measure to bring foreign building and loan associations down on a footing with domestic associations so far as the State law is concerned has been passed by the house.

Mr. Winkler's bill amending the insurance deposit act was also passed last week.

The separate coach bill will doubtless come up this week. The provisions of the substitute bill have already been indicated.

The appropriation bill has been sent in by the committee on ways and means. It is in much earlier than usual, and will cause no delay this year. Its proposed changes have already been indicated.

Mr. Ashley's primary election bill has been killed, and Mr. Hydrick's bill changing the sentences for manslaughter has passed. Mr. Toole's salary reduction bill is resting easily on the calendar.

Resolution in the House Limits the Time for Introduction of New Bills.

Columbia Jan. 31.—Both houses of the general assembly were in session this morning, but no great amount of work was done. In the senate all third reading bills, including Mr. Patton's measure to secure good pavements in cities, were passed. The rest of the work was devoid of interest.

In the house, a resolution was passed shutting off the introduction of new bills, save through the committees, after to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Bacon the question of fixing a final day of adjournment was referred to a joint committee of the two houses with instructions to report immediately.

The house passed Mr. Verner's bill to declare the seduction of an unmarried woman under promise of marriage a crime. The punishment fixed is a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$5,000, or imprisonment of not less than 6 months or more than 5 years, or both in the discretion of the court.

Mr. Blythe's bill to require assignment of real estate mortgages to be entered on the record was killed, after a lively debate.

Mr. Ashley's bill to devote to the common schools the privilege tax on fertilizers was killed by a vote of 41 to 33.

A large number of new bills were introduced. Mr. Hydrick presented a liquor bill providing for local option.

Mr. Wilson presented a bill looking to the formation of Lee county.

There will be no night session of the house.

The special committee on dispensary will meet at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Sinkler, of Charleston, presented a bill to amend the law in relation to pharmacists.

Mr. Gaeque has one to fix the maximum schedule of prices for the selling of tobacco in the warehouses in this state.

The cotton crop for this season is superior in nearly all of its qualities to that of last season. As near as we can ascertain from numerous inquiries from the largest cotton buyers for the New England mills, the crop, in cleanliness, is 1 per cent better than last year, in length of staple, 6 per cent better, and in spinning qualities, 10 per cent better, while the average grade is about the same. It seems now pretty conclusive that we shall have a cotton crop this season of 10,500,000 bales. Estimates have been made ranging from 9,650,000 to 11,000,000 bales. Prices for this commodity are likely to continue below the cost of production long after the planting season for next year's crop, which will have a material influence, in our opinion, in deciding planters to curtail their cotton crop and devote it more to cereals.

The question of what the State farm shall raise bobs up in the shape of a resolution requiring the superintendent to decrease his cotton acreage 50 per cent. Good farmers in both branches, and there are some good ones, men who make money, say that they are afraid the question of profits from the State farm will soon be like the profits in the dispensary—powerful small.

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 26.—From a member of the ways and means committee I learn that the big parade about the handsome profits on the State farms are much a matter of book keeping. Instead of a profit of \$10,000, the appropriation to that institution cuts the matter down to more than half that amount, to wit: \$4,500. Of course a profit is better than a deficit, but facts should be clearly stated.

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State Farm Profits Dwindle on Close Inspection.

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Tobacco Soils Report.

The Secretary of Agriculture Preparing a Thorough Scientific Classification.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has authorized the issue in pamphlet form of a preliminary report upon the soils of the principal tobacco districts in the United States prepared by Milton Whitney, chief of the division of soils. A study of these soils was begun when the tobacco exhibit was being prepared for the Columbian exposition at Chicago, and since that time a number of typical tobacco soils have been examined in the laboratory connected with the agricultural department. The present publication, which is copiously illustrated, is a preliminary report of the work that has been going on. The main points of inquiry which now reach the department are in regard to the kind of tobacco which should be grown in certain specified localities, and the method of curing the product. Replying to these questions the report says climate and soil conditions should determine the kind of tobacco raised.

"The tobacco plant really adapts itself to a great range of climatic conditions; it will grow on nearly all kinds of soil, and has a comparatively short season of growth. It can, therefore, as a matter of fact, be grown in nearly all parts of the country, even where wheat and corn cannot be economically produced. But while tobacco can be so universally grown, the flavor and quality of the leaf are greatly influenced by the conditions of climate and soil. A nondescript tobacco is not worth growing, and should not be grown, as it lowers the price of really good types of tobacco, to the detriment alike of growers and consumers. It is important, therefore, to understand what kinds of tobacco are in demand, and what the climatic and soil conditions are which will most easily produce the qualities desired."

A glance at the table giving changes in the production of tobacco from 1879 to 1889 shows that in this period of 10 years the acreage and yield of the cigar tobaccos have been very considerably increased. The manufacturing and export districts cannot be sharply separated, as both kinds of tobacco are frequently grown in the same district and the same kind is frequently used for both purposes. On the whole there has been a considerable decrease in the acreage and yield. With the bright yellow and burley tobaccos there has been a large increase in both acreage and yield. Since 1889 there has been considerable changes in many of these districts, while other new districts, notably Texas and California, are coming into considerable prominence both as to the area under cultivation and the excellent quality of the product raised. The acreage in Florida have also been very greatly increased since 1889, but there are no reliable statistics to show the extent of the changes in the counties making up the tobacco district.

Abbeville's Clerk Indicted.

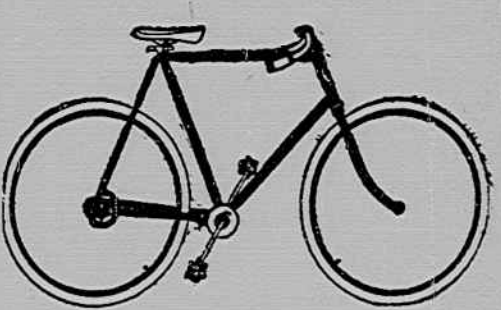
Charged With Forging Judge Buchanan's Signature in Four Cases.

Abbeville, Jan. 26.—Quite a sensation was sprung in court here at an early hour this morning, when the grand jury made a special presentment charging Mr. W. R. Bullock, clerk of the circuit court, guilty of forging in four different instances. He is charged with forging Judge O. W. Buchanan's name to two witness pay certificates and to two constable pay certificates; and the grand jury in making the presentment urged that the case be tried immediately, as the people demanded an investigation.

Mr. Bullock will be tried at this term of court, and will be represented by Graydon & Graydon and W. C. McGowan, of this bar. Acting Solicitor J. A. Mooney of Greenville will prosecute for the State.

Henry Goettel, a young German baker, after confessing that he and Herman Breetz wrecked a passenger on the Florida East Coast last Tuesday night, committed suicide in the St. Augustine jail.

Columbia Bicycles



1898.

Chainless Columbia, \$125

Standard Columbia, \$75

Models 7 & 8, Hartford, \$50

Models 15 & 16, Vedett, \$40

2d hand Columbias, \$25 to \$50

Satisfact on guaranteed on every wheel sold by me.

D. JAS. WINN,

Dec 10 SUMTER, S. C.